

What is claimed is:

1. A composition for inhibiting an activity of elastase, which comprises a *Mallotus japonicus* extract as an active ingredient.

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2. A composition for promoting a collagen biosynthesis, which comprises a *Mallotus japonicus* extract as an active ingredient.

10 3. A cosmetic composition for improving skin wrinkles comprising: (a) a *Mallotus japonicus* extract as an active ingredient; and (b) a cosmetically acceptable carrier.

15 4. The cosmetic composition according to claim 3, wherein said *Mallotus japonicus* extract is derived from *Mallotus japonicus* barks.

20 5. The cosmetic composition according to claim 3, wherein said *Mallotus japonicus* extract is present in an amount of 0.0001-20 wt% based on the total weight of the composition.

25 6. The cosmetic composition according to claim 3, wherein said composition is in the form of one selected from a solution, a suspension, an emulsion, a paste, an ointment, a gel, a cream, a lotion, a powder, a soap, a surfactant-containing cleanser, an oil, a powder foundation, an emulsion foundation, a wax foundation and a spray.